

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/607,689

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Applicant(s)

MURAYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 062703
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.


Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Kumamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,482,028) discloses a cable connector (10) connectable to at least two cables (12) each of which comprises a pair of signal conductors (38a, 38b) insulated from each other, the cable connector (10) comprises a first module (18) and a second module (21) which is combined with the first module (18), the first module (18) comprises a first insulator (24) and a ground portion (26a). See Figs. 3-11.

Hansell, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,176,538) discloses a cable connector (1) connectable to at least two cables (10) each of which comprises a pair of signal conductors (15) insulated from each other, the cable connector (1) comprises a first module (22) and a second module (Fig. 13) which is combined with the first module (22) the first module (22) comprises a first insulator (22) and a ground portion (4, 6), the first insulator (22) holds the ground portion (4, 6). See Figs. 1-17.

Bowen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,085,596) discloses a cable connector (Fig. 2) connectable to at least two cables (194) each of which comprises a pair of signal conductors (228, 230) insulated from each other, the cable connector (Fig. 2) comprises a first module (22) and a second module (24) which is combined with the first module

(10) the first module (22) comprises a first insulator (236) and a ground portion (180), the first insulator (236) holds the ground portion (180), the first insulator (236) is further provided with cable receiving portions (Fig. 4). See Figs. 1-5E.

However, the references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the first insulator holds the ground portion and is provided with separator accommodation slits; and the first insulator being further provided with cable receiving portions each of which is arranged between the respective neighboring separator accommodation slits, separators physically and electrically connected to the ground contacts, and a second insulator holding the ground contacts and the signal contacts, wherein: the separators project from the second insulator; and, under a combined state of the first and the second modules, the separators are fitted into the respective separator accommodation slits and are electrically connected to the ground portion and in combination with the rest of the limitations in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

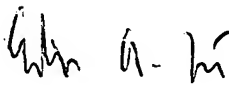
2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kumamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,619,987), Akama et al. (U.S.

Patent No. 6,685,511), Ramey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,478,624), Andrews (U.S. Patent No. 5,620,340) and Uberbacher (U.S. Patent No. 3,587,028) disclose connectors having modules, shields, ground portions and separators.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner

EAL
March 2, 2004